

Henking Hoffman PTA Meeting
Tuesday, December 9, 2008
Hoffman

Call to order at 9:25 AM

Attendees: Mark Walther, Neal Siegellak, Laura Horwitz, Angela McCune, Ande Wells, Gershon Sapperstein, Nina Malis, Mary Patronik, Marcy Sotirchos, and Marguerite Cole.

The November Minutes were approved.

Presidents Report: Ande Wells

Westbrook School currently offers an enrichment program called Amazing Minds after school. It is a program for 1st and 2nd graders that meets once a week for 10 weeks for a cost of \$295. It is an extension of Extraordinary Kids which is offered to kindergartners at the Park Center. Neal stated that he had available space in the mobile classrooms and Gaynor Eisenberg agreed to collect the tuition, get it to Laura Horwitz and Laura would make a check out to Amazing Minds. The plan is for Neal to talk with the Park District to see why it is not offered there and based on that information forms will go out in the beginning of January for a February start date.

PTA Council Report: Angela McCune

PTA Council is a place where PTA Presidents and Vice Presidents from the four PTA's get together with District 34 Administration and discuss any important issues pertaining to the education of our children. On January 14, 2009 the four PTA Presidents and the Communication Chairs will meet to discuss on-line registration for this year. The results of the Calendar Survey were presented to the School Board and they heard that the most important point was to be to have the school year start as close to Labor Day as possible and keep Winter and Spring Breaks aligned with GBS.

Tammy Burke and Mary Hershey presented information regarding Environmental Programs in the District. This year the focus is moving from Recycle to Reduce. Carol Christensen works for the District providing Energy Education. She works within the system we currently have trying to find ways to reduce energy use and energy loss. For instance, the doors of all the rooms are now kept closed to keep the rooms warmer.

Treasures Report: Laura Horwitz

Laura provided everyone with a copy of the budget and noted there have been no changes.

Principals Report

Neal Siegellak-Henking School

Title I Grant: Henking is a Title I school based on its percentage of students who are on "Free and Reduced Lunch." Once designated a Title I school Henking is provided extra funding to meet the needs of students. Henking determines which students are "at-risk" using a variety of data sources. In addition to paying for an extra reading support associate and a literacy coach, the Title I grant is providing additional funding. The funds will provide needed support in the areas of before or after school academics, parent outreach, and parent education, among other possibilities.

Local School Council University: I sent a feedback form to parents yesterday aimed at gathering information on what parents would like to learn about during Math Night on February 9. The feedback is requested to be returned to school December 12; it will be used to help teachers in framing their presentations.

Kindergarten Music Observations in Classrooms: Ms. Settle welcomed parents into the classrooms during the week of December 1. Parents listened to the kindergartners sing a variety of songs, including their “Hello Song.”

Winter Program: The holiday program will highlight a variety of cultures with balanced representation. The program will be on December 18 at 10:00 and 2:00. Information has been sent home detailing when each class is performing.

New Evaluation Process:

The new evaluation process breaks the school year into five segments. Principals and teachers meet once each segment to open dialogue about all aspects of a teacher’s professional responsibilities.

The following two statements were rated as strongly agree or agree by 94.2% of first and second year teachers:

1. The evaluation process facilitates a positive relationship with my evaluator.
2. The format of the evaluation process provides opportunities for meaningful conversation with my evaluator about my teaching practice.

New School Task Force: The NSTF met December 2. Subgroups had visited one or two of the eight schools and information about current facility use was shared. For the January 13 meeting principals have been asked to give numbers of classrooms that could be used as homerooms assuming—

A. Current Availability

B. Current Possibility with Minimal Disruption to Programming (e.g. if a program, such as drama was on a cart)

C. Possible Homerooms Assuming Physical Building Limitations (e.g. number of classes that can use the gym each day)

School Improvement Plan—Student Achievement Goal: Students will improve in the area of *Number Sense* using a RIT score of 195 as a target on the 3rd grade NWEA assessment. The goal is aligned with the common assessments and data that teaching teams are working with during collaboration times.

School Improvement Plan—Climate Goal: *Increase the school’s positive climate leading to a higher level of quality in education among students, staff, and community members.*

The climate goal is based on Organizational Health survey data that has identified optimal shared-decision making and problem solving as areas of focus. Activities include incorporating the *FISH!* philosophy into how students and staff work together. The four tenets are *Choose a positive attitude, Play, Make Their Day, and Be Present.*

FISH!: “Choose Your Attitude” Party: Held December 9 to dedicate space for a Staff Lounge

Response to Intervention Overview Training: Mainly Second Year Teachers are attending a series of three workshops in December, January, and March. The training will help students to make progress according to their individual needs. Teachers will hone skills in identifying learning difficulties, differentiating instruction, and monitoring progress of students.

Have a wonderful winter break!

Mark Walther-Hoffman School

-Holiday Helper Pack-Up was this past Saturday. What a great event! Thanks to all the students and parents who helped! Special thanks to Marguerite Cole, Sue Hararmaras, and Cherie DiCesare for their leadership!

-Movie Night was last Friday and was a HUGE success-largest crowd ever, over 300 students. Special thanks to Laura Cushnie and Julie Loeber for their excellent leadership!

-Congrats to the Hoffman Student Board who marched in the Glenview Holiday Parade on Saturday November 29-Character Counts!

-Thank you Linda Murphy for helping with this year’s Memory Book and our 5th grade.

-Chess will be offered at lunch recess to all students on Fridays in January and February in the Learning Center.

-Band/Choir Concert this Thursday, December 11 at 7:00 PM in the gym.

-Student Board had their first meeting Wed. December 3. Spirit Day is on December 19 and will include Pajama Day. Staff coordinators are Peg Corrigan, Mara Pierce and Linda Friedman.

-Math Night is scheduled for January 26th.

-January 5th-Feb. 1-All students will be assessed again in Reading with NWEA and CBM tests. Also CBM tests in Math.

-The Awesome Reading Club(The ARC) begins on Monday January 12 for ELL students identified through reading assessment performance. Funded through Title I grant money.

-PLC Pearl-Character Counts Survey

-Planetarium for Grades 3-4 is in the LRC and Laura Strejc and Kirsten Considine are teaching in the Planetarium.

-Best wishes to you and your family for a happy and healthy holiday season and a rewarding 2009!

Committee Reports

Holiday Helper-Nina Malis and Marguerite Cole

Nina Malis has been organizing this event for years. In the beginning there were only 9-10 families and baskets of food were brought to their homes. This year 157 families qualified for Holiday Helper and 97 families participated. A letter is sent out to every family who qualifies and it is up to each individual family to decide if they want to participate. The PTA than matches these families with donor families and supplements the food donations. On a Saturday morning in early December the students and parents of Henking/Hoffman get together to put the boxes together and sometime during the next

week the families come to pick up their boxes. The families are very grateful for the kindness and generosity.

Market Day-Angela McCune

Market Day is next week so there is nothing to report.

Fundraising-Mary Patronik

A meeting took place last week where the focus of the meeting was fundraising. A popular idea was to send out a letter outlining how much is needed to sustain the annual PTA budget and request that families make donations. The other idea is to have some type of event but not an auction. People still want an opportunity to have a social event. Some ideas were a golf outing or a mother /daughter tea etc.
Adjourned at 11:00 A.M.